

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ATHENS 01055 071346Z

43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 071145Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7355

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T ATHENS 1055

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PRO GR TU

SUBJECT: GREEK-TURKISH AEGEAN DISPUTE

1. I SPOKE TO FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS THIS MORNING WHO TOLD ME THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAD GIVEN THE GOG ITS OFFICIAL RESPONSE YESTERDAY TO THE GREEK PROPOSAL TOTAKE THEIR AEGEAN DISPUTE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE AT THE HAGUE. BITSIOS SAID THAT THE GOT REPLY "ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE" THE TWO GOVERNMENTS SUBMITTING THE PROPOSAL JOINTLY TO THE ICJ. BITSIOS SAID THAT THE GOT REPLY ALSO RE-STATED THE WELL KNOWN TURKISH POSITION WITH RESPECT TO THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE AEGEAN BUT SAID NONTHELESS THE THE GOT "CONSIDERS FAVORABLY" THE GREEK PROPOSAL TO GO TO THE ICJ. THE GOT PROPOSED THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO GOVTS HAVE PRELIMINARY TALKS TO ESTABLISH THE MODALITIES AND TERMS FOR THE JOINT SUBMISSION.

2. BITSIOS SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS AND THE GREEK GOVT CONSIDERED THIS A "POSITIVE" RESPONSE BY TURKEY AND BELIEVED THAT IT COULD HELP BRING ABOUT A DETENTE IN GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS. HE ASKED THAT I CONVEY HIS SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SECRETARY AND HIS STAFF IN WASHINGTON -- AS WELL AS TO AMBASSADOR MACOMBER IN ANKARA -- FOR THEIR IMPORTANT HELP IN THIS MATTER.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 ATHENS 01055 071346Z

3. I RESPONDED BY CONGRATULATING BITSIOS AND THE GOG

ON THEIR INITIATIVE, POINTING OUT THAT WHEN ONE CONSIDERED
THE POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES IT WAS ALL THE MORE APPARENT WHAT
A SIGNIFICANT AND SUCCESSFUL DIPLOMATIC MOVE THIS HAD
BEEN BY GREECE.
KUBISCH

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NNN

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